THE ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CARBONDALE CITY HALL

Carbondale City Hall, regarded as and architectural phenomenon and as an historical phenomenon, is a highly important building for four reasons: (1) it is an excellent example of a Romanesque Revival building; (2) it is one of the few extant Romanesque Revival public buildings in northeastern Pennsylvania; (3) it is the most important public building in Carbondale, the oldest incorporated city in Lackawanna County; and (4) it was designed by an important local architect, Truman I. Lacey, and erected under his direct supervision by local builders, W. D. Stevens of Binghamton and George H. Tryon of Carbondale, out of local materials.

The two-story wing of present-day City Hall, while it was an autonomous building, served a highly important function not only in the history of the city of Carbondale, but also in the history of northeastern Pennsylvania. From 1859 to 1894, it housed the executive and legislative branches of the city government. From 1859 to December 31, 1875, in addition, it housed one of the earliest judicial bodies in northeastern Pennsylvania: the Carbondale City Court. This court, which was provided for by the city's charter, was presided over by the president judge of the judicial district sitting as recorder, assisted by the mayor and such of the aldermen as might be present. From 1894 to the present day, Lacey's 1892-1894 City Hall has been the home of the executive and legislative branches of the city government. When the building was completed in 1894, its public rooms were occupied as follows: one large room for common coucil, one large room for select council, one room for poor department, one room for board of health, one room for board of